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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,069	02/16/2001	Seth Weisberg	41232/FLC/S850	5093
23363	7590	08/30/2006	EXAMINER BACKER, FIRMIN	
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP PO BOX 7068 PASADENA, CA 91109-7068			ART UNIT 3621	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 08/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/788,069

Applicant(s)

WEISBERG ET AL.

Examiner

FIRMN BACKER

Art Unit

3621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-41 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lewis et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,565) in view of Pang et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,446,204)
3. As per claim 1-5, 10, 12, 19, 24-29, 30, 35 and 36, Lewis et al teach a method of printing a VBI such as a ticket, a coupon, a mail piece, a travelers, check or a currency, comprising generating a message digest by hashing relevant 2-D bar code information (*see fig 4A, 4B*), and generating a textual digital signature from the message including a stateless cryptomodule and a plurality of user computer in communication with the cryptomodule to communication digital signature (*see figs 1-3 and their accompany text*). Lewis et al fail to teach communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cryptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of repeatedly located user computers. However, Pang et al teach communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cryptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of repeatedly located user computers (*see abstract, fig 1, 2, 6, col.*

Art Unit: 3621

18 lines 59-col 19 line 30). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Lewis et al's system to include Pang et al's teach communicating the digital signature from one of a plurality of stateless cryptomodules to one of a plurality of remotely located user computers each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of repeatedly located user computers because this would have provided a more flexible system.

4. As per claims 6-9, 13-16, 20-23 and 31 -34, Lewis et al teach a method of the digital signature and the 2-D bar code include sides (such as right, left, top and bottom) (*see figs 1-3 and their accompany text*).

5. As per claims 11 and 37, Lewis et al teach a method wherein the relevant information including one or more of indicium version number, an algorithm identifier, a certificate serial number, a postage security device manufacturer identifier, a model identifier, postage device serial number, an ascending register value (*see figs 1-3 and their accompany text*).

6. As per claims 38-41, Lewis et al teach a method wherein each stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers includes accessing user data from a database (*see figs 1-3 and their accompany text*).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed June 21st, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. Applicant argue that the prior art fail to teach an invention wherein "a textual representation of a digital signature from the message digest." Applicant argues that the only textual representations in F1Gs. 4A and 48 of Lewis are the meter number, the postage amount, the date, the class of postage, and an address, none of which is "a textual representation of a digital signature (generated) from the message digest." Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant characterization of the prior art. Lewis et al clearly teach the invention as claimed by the Applicant. In addition to the textual representations in F1Gs. 4A and 48 of Lewis are the meter number, the postage amount, the date, the class of postage, and an address, Lewis also teach the printing of an *indicium*, 74, which represent a unique identifier that is digitally signed for each mail piece (*see column 18 line 24-26, 19 lines 52-56 and 20 lines 25-34*).

b. Applicant further argues that the prior art fail to teach a stateless cryptomodule being programmable to service any of the remotely located computer. Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant characterization of the prior art. Although Lewis et al fail to teach this limitation, Examiner relies on Pang for the deficiency. Applicants fail to recognized that the system 600 of Pang disclosure operated in a stateless wed environment (*see col. 18 lien 59-62*). In Pangs, FIG. 6 is a block diagram of a system 600

that provides for an extensible authentication mechanism in a stateless web environment according to one embodiment of the invention. The system 600 includes an authentication server 252 that is connected to multiple dispatchers 214, 220 and 226 through object request broker 282. Authentication server 252 comprises an authentication engine 602, an authentication host 604 and a plurality of authentication service providers (simply referred to as providers) 606, 608, 610 and 612. Authentication engine 602 communicates with dispatchers 214, 220 and 226 through object request broker 282 to receive authentication requests. Upon receiving an authentication request, the authentication engine 602 parses the authentication request into one or more provider requests. The authentication engine 602 then sends the provider requests through the object request broker 282 to the authentication host 604 for distribution to the appropriate provider. Examiner respectfully disagrees that Pang system cannot service any of the plurality of remotely located user computers.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

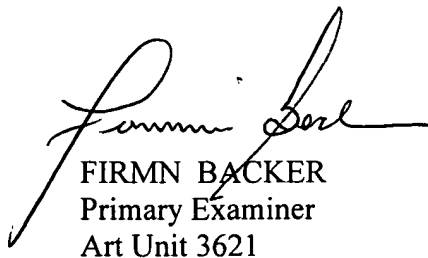
Art Unit: 3621

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FIRMN BACKER whose telephone number is 571-272-6703. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



FIRMN BACKER
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3621

August 24, 2006